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## Book Reviews

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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Defending the Borders: The Texas Rangers, 1848-1861*, Frederick Wilkins  
(State House Press, P. O. Box 15247, Austin, TX 78761) 2001. Contents.  
Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 194. \$27.95. Hardcover. \$19.95. Paperback.

The lore and literature of the Lone Star State is just as rich, magnificent, and sprawling as the land itself. A vast country shrouded in the mists of legends, even today, Texas looms large in the American imagination as a land of almost mythic proportions. Indeed, Texas exists in the mind as much as on any map. In song, cinema, television, and the printed media, Anglo-Texans still celebrate and perpetuate their own Creation Myth, that popular though fictionalized account of how enterprising American yeomen-farmers and frontiersmen settled and civilized an immense wilderness Zion. According to this epic, in the beginning Texans held a simple faith that, as a covenant people, they had been sanctified by the blood of martyrs, and thus were justified by providence to wrest their promised land from the clutches of Mexican tyrants. In the end, they were certain in their belief that they had been delivered from the evils of Mexican *banditti* and barbaric Indians by a handful of heroes who served as the harbingers of civilization – the hard-riding, straight-shooting Texas Rangers.

In the third volume of his trilogy on the Rangers, Frederick Wilkins surveys the long-neglected yet critical period between the close of the U.S.-Mexican War and the outbreak of the American Civil War. Drawing upon manuscript collections, published memoirs and diaries, government reports, and other public documents, he follows the trails of the Texan volunteer units known variously as State Partisans, Minute Companies, and Mounted Rangers. In so doing he offers a much-needed reappraisal of the legendary border fighters during this formative decade when Ranger forces served an important function by patrolling the Indian frontier and the Lower Rio Grande border. Specifically, he provides convincing evidence, which refutes historian Walter Prescott Webb's claim that, during these years, the fabled frontier institution became "little more than a historical expression."

If general readers are looking merely to be reintroduced to the Ranger immortals, they will find most of them in the pages of this study. And they will find much more: the fabled Comanche fighter and Senior Captain, John Salmon "Rip" Ford; Captain Ben McCulloch, the adventurer and scout commander of Mexican War fame; future governor Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross, who would have become a genuine Texan legend in his own right, even if he had never done anything more than recover from the Comanche the captive white woman, Cynthia Ann Parker. Even lesser known figures, all but

ignored by Webb, find their way into the narrative – men such as James H. Callahan, who led a company of Rangers into Mexico in 1855, ostensibly to “chastise” Lipan renegades and half-breed Seminoles. Callahan and his men burned to the ground the town of Piedras Negras. Regrettably, Wilkins dismisses the notion that Callahan and his mounted volunteers were also looking to cash in on bounties for runaway slaves seeking refuge south of the Rio Grande.

While this chronicle of the early Rangers will surely appeal to the general public, scholars of Texas and the Southwest may well find the study to be disappointing in two respects. Although Wilkins adds measurably to our collective understanding of the Rangers’ history, particularly the much-neglected decade of the 1850s, he offers little new insight into the personalities that shaped the famed institution. More importantly, this work sometimes falls short of its apparent goal of stripping away the enduring myths about the Rangers. In sum, the book lends credence to the adage, legends die hard – and sometimes they never die.

Michael L. Collins  
Midwestern State University

*When the Texans Came: Missing Records from the Civil War in the Southwest, 1861-1862*, John P. Wilson (University of New Mexico Press, 1720 Lomas Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1591) 2001. Contents. Illus. Maps. Notes. References. Index. P. 364. \$39.95. Hardcover.

This work will be invaluable to students of the Confederacy’s ill-fated New Mexico campaign of 1861-1862. As the editor, a Las Cruces historian-archaeologist, points out in the introduction, the Texans first came to New Mexico in the summer of 1861 when Lt. Col. John R. Baylor led a battalion of the Second Regiment, Texas Mounted Rifles, up the Rio Grande into the Mesilla Valley. Early in 1862 a larger force of Texans commanded by Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley moved into the territory. After fighting several battles and exhausting their supplies, the invaders were forced to withdraw back into Texas.

Many of the Union and Confederate reports of the New Mexico campaign were later published as part of the *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (1881-1901). However, for various reasons many records, including some pertaining to the New

Mexico campaign, were not included. Indeed, during the last decade the Broadfoot Publishing Company of Wilmington, North Carolina, has published an additional one hundred volumes of Civil War records as *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (1994-2001).

The editor of *When the Texans Came* has selected 282 documents relating to the New Mexico campaign not published in the original *Official Records*. While not indicating whether any of these documents are included in the new Broadfoot *Supplement*, the editor has arranged these 282 documents in sixteen different chapters, seven Union, four Confederates, and five a combination of the two. Some of the documents describe major engagements such as Valverde, Apache Pass, and Glorieta. Others describe lesser-known engagements and activities. Particularly valuable is the chapter containing documents relating to John R. Baylor's raid into the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Collectively, the documents add many additional insights into this phase of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi.

Ralph A. Wooster  
Lamar University

*Early Tejano Ranching: Daily Life at Ranchos San José & El Fresnillo*, Andrés Sáenz, Andrés Tijerina, editor (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2001. 1999. Contents. Charts. Maps. Appendices. Illus. Biblio. Index. P. 159. \$9.95. Paperback.

*Naturally ... South Texas: Nature Notes From the Coastal Bend*, Roland H. Wauer (University of Texas Press, P. O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2001. Contents. Calendar. Index. P. 240. \$22.95. Paperback.

Andrés Sáenz was born on a ranch in southern Duval County in 1927. Beginning in 1980, his mother, in "evening porch conversations," recounted stories she had heard from her father and grandfather. Andrés transcribed many of the conversations, and when she died in 1987 he had sixty-five pages of manuscript. He pursued additional genealogical information by searching tax rolls, census reports, cemeteries, and church records in South Texas and northern Mexico. In 1997 he responded to a request from the Institute of Texan Cultures for information about pioneering *Tejano* families with a set of manuscripts. Andrés Tijerina edited them into fifty-eight brief chapters dealing with topics such as sheep shearing, house construction, food, religion, entertainment, *curanderas*, and domestic crafts. These humble family stories

describe the daily lives of residents in South Texas *Tejano* ranching communities.

After a thirty-two-year career with the National Park Service, Roland H. Wauer moved to Victoria and began writing a weekly nature column in the *Victoria Advocate*. *Naturally ... South Texas* is a collection of these columns that deals with the fifteen counties along the central Gulf Coast south and west from Matagorda County. The author organized the book into chronological chapters by month, to cover the changes in nature over a year. Each month has five to ten journal entries on such topics as wild flowers, bats, armadillos, good snakes, chiggers, and the mating practices of striped skunks.

These two accounts, one by a descendant of a pioneer *Tejano* ranching family and one by a biologist, offer insights into ranching history and the natural history of South Texas. Both books are personal and modest accounts that achieve more than their humble intentions. They are very readable, attractively illustrated, and are interesting additions to the literature of South Texas.

Leslie Gene Hunter  
Texas A&M University-Kingsville

*The Civil War Adventures of a Blockade Runner*, William Watson (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2001. Reprint 1892. Intro. Contents. Illus. P. 324. \$17.95. Paperback.

William Watson's *The Civil War Adventures of a Blockade Runner* is essential for those who have an interest in this topic. Its detailed recounting of chases, near captures, and the business of blockade running provide a great deal of insight into the trade. Because the book is an account of Watson's exploits during the war it includes no information as to sources; however, the narrative can be confirmed by the myriad of other such accounts in existence.

In addition to relating his exciting and sometimes frightening adventures at sea, Watson furnishes an excellent description of other situations confronted by blockade runners. One particularly vexing problem was recruiting and retaining a competent and sober crew. Another, theft by consignee agents in the form of the devaluation of incoming and outgoing cargo, made it difficult for Watson to earn a profit.

Of particular interest to Texas historians would be Watson's descriptions of Galveston. Since Watson did the majority of his sailing to ports such as

Tampico, Mexico and Havana, Cuba, Galveston was usually his discharge port. Interestingly, however, Galveston was rarely used at the beginning of Watson's career. As a result, it was ill prepared to deal with the large amount of traffic, and resultant problems, when it became a haven for steamers as the war progressed.

William Watson had a number of dilemmas and daring adventures as a blockade runner. He has compiled a thorough description of his experiences, and anyone interested in blockade running should read this book.

Christopher Spaid  
Hagerstown, Maryland

*Prang's Civil War Pictures: The Complete Battle Chromos of Louis Prang*, Harold Holzer, editor (Fordham University Press, University Box L, 2546 Belmont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458) 2001. Contents. Prologue. Intro. B&W & Color Photos. Index. P. 184. \$50.00. Hardcover.

Union general William T. Sherman, not otherwise noted for his sensitivity, once remarked that artist James E. Taylor's Civil War paintings of the Grand Review and Big Black River crossing "in one glance give a better idea than a hundred pages of the best descriptive writing." If Sherman could have reviewed this twenty-first-century compilation of publisher Louis Prang, he might have said much the same thing. In fact, General Sherman did live to see the publication of these entrancing Prang chromolithographs (the results of a process of lithographing in color). He remarked of the Atlanta campaign work: "Certainly, the execution is admirable ... I think Prang's pictures generally are beginning to rival the best of paintings" (p. 35).

Born in 1824 in Breslau, Germany, Louis Prang was a giant in the printing field. Many believe that he was the father of the Christmas card – a notion he encouraged. He came slowly to Civil War battle scenes, but when he came, he came with a vengeance and a desire for excellence. Between 1886 and 1888 Prang debuted eighteen magnificent color chromos of startling quality. The battlefield portraits were critically acclaimed by an approving target audience of loyal Northerners anxious to remember the victories that saved the Union.

Harold Holzer's expert narrative traces Prang's entry into the publishing field, furnishing ample references to what Prang and his competitors were about and what their public demanded. It is especially interesting when it

speaks to how the battles and primary subjects were selected, the politics involved in making these judgments, and business end of the publications.

Prang's work is worth viewing, and the history of his work is well worth reading. Holzer raises the fascinating point that we have looked almost exclusively to the printed word to gauge how the Civil War generation of Americans remembered the war. Perhaps it would serve us well to look also at the pictures that generation cherished. Those too can tell us much, as this excellent publication demonstrates.

Dan Laney  
Austin, Texas

*German Pioneers on the American Frontier: The Wagners in Texas and Illinois*, Andreas Reichstein (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2001. Contents. Illus. Appendices. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 303. \$32.95. Hardcover.

Reichstein's book is a case study of the families of two German immigrant brothers, Wilhelm Wagner in Illinois and Julius Wagner in Texas, covering a time period from the 1840s to the present. Reichstein attempts to explain whether immigrants blend into an already established, dominant society (assimilation) or bring their own cultural practices and form a new, different society (acculturation). Based on an impressive amount of research in twenty German, two Texan, and four other American archives, Reichstein argues that the Wagners in Illinois remained acculturated German-Americans until the 1960s while the Texan Wagners became assimilated in their second generation.

Wilhelm Wagner left Germany for political reasons after the failed revolution of 1848 and therefore praised the United States as the land of freedom, but he and his descendants married only German-Americans, clung to German social practices such as membership in singing societies, and emphasized a humanistic education. In contrast to Wilhelm, his brother Julius Wagner voluntarily left Germany to join a group of young idealists who established a communistic utopian community north of Fredericksburg. After the economic collapse of the experiment, Julius settled down with his German wife to farm in DeWitt County. Julius opposed secession and fled to Mexico in 1861, but returned to Texas and became postmaster in Indianola. Although Julius shared the same customs and education as his brother, his children in

Cuero seemed to be ashamed that their father had not served the Confederacy and tried hard to assimilate and leave their German past behind. Julius' children forgot about their relatives, their German heritage, and their language. Reichstein concludes that there is no general answer to the question of whether Germans became Americans by assimilation or acculturation.

Dirk Voss

Stephen F. Austin State University

*Contemporary Ranches of Texas*, Lawrence Clayton (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2001. Contents. Biblio. B&W Photos. Glossary. P. 166. \$29.95. Hardcover.

*Vaqueros, Cowboys, and Buckaroos*, Lawrence Clayton, Jim Hoy, and Jerald Underwood (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2001. Contents. Illus. Biblio. Index. Glossary. P. 275. \$19.95. Paperback.

As its title indicates, *Contemporary Ranches of Texas* focuses on sixteen Texas ranches from three geographical regions of the state: South, Panhandle and Northwest, and Trans-Pecos. The author selected these ranches in part for their "geographic distribution," in part for their "historical interest" and "prominence in ranching circles" (p. 7). *Vaqueros, Cowboys, and Buckaroos* has a broader subject matter, tracing both the vaquero traditions of northern Mexico and the traditions that developed from them: the cowboy traditions in Texas and the Southwest and the buckaroo traditions west of the Rockies. Together, the two books – one authored by the late Lawrence Clayton, the other co-authored by him – provide a richly drawn portrait of ranching life.

*Contemporary Ranches of Texas* is an aesthetically pleasing book, oversized, crisply laid out on slick stock, and containing numerous large, arresting, black-and-white photographs. Clayton shows the ways in which Texas ranching has changed and in which it has remained the same, noting, for example, that "The horse is still essential" (p. 6). Throughout, he emphasizes the necessity of adapting to the land itself, of the rancher's "knowing what to do and what not to do, and when to act on a particular range" (p. 6).

In *Vaqueros, Cowboys, and Buckaroos*, Jerald Underwood traces the history of the vaquero of northern Mexico, provides a detailed discussion of his gear, and offers contemporary portraits of the vaqueros of northern Mexico and southern Texas. Clayton does much the same with the American cowboy,



arguing in favor of a strong vaquero influence. Jim Hoy defines the buckaroo as having derived from the California vaquero tradition and developed in the cattle industry of the Great Basin. Hoy posits that the buckaroo defines himself more strictly as a horseman than does the man-of-all-ranch-work cowboy and that the buckaroo has a stronger aesthetic sense in both dress and performance of his tasks, being more concerned with doing a job with a certain style and appropriateness.

Paula Marks  
St. Edward's University

*Notorious Woman: The Celebrated Case of Myra Gaines*, Elizabeth Urban Alexander (Louisiana State University Press, P. O. Box 25053, Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5053) 2001. Contents. Illus. Biblio. Index. P. 301. \$34.95. Hardcover.

The longest continuous litigation in the history of the United States involved Myra Clark Gaines (1805-1885) as the lost heir who sued Beverly Chew and Richard Relf, the wealthy and prominent New Orleans business partners of her deceased father, Daniel Clark. The case involved a missing will, an illicit relationship, and a questionable marriage, and inspired numerous sentimental novels of the nineteenth century. In 1839, Gaines became the third wife of General Edmund Pendleton Gaines, commander of the West. For sixty-three years she sought an inheritance worth millions of dollars in Louisiana real estate. Some three hundred lawsuits were filed in local courts, and the United States Supreme Court heard various aspects of the case seventeen times. Gaines was obsessed with proving that she was the legitimate daughter of a New Orleans merchant and not, as her opponents claimed, the result of an adulterous relationship. Attorneys took her case hoping to share in the \$35 million in property.

Elizabeth Alexander combed 80,000 pages of testimony to unravel the essence of this remarkable case. While primarily focusing on the litigation, she intertwined the history of New Orleans, the Louisiana Purchase, the War of 1812, and beyond. Mini-biographies adorn the plot such as those of Aaron Burr, General James Wilkinson, and attorneys Reverdy Johnson, Caleb Cushing, Jeremiah Black, Judah P. Benjamin, Francis Scott Key, and Daniel Webster.

In addition to the melodramatic plot, the case illustrates the development of the family legal system in the United States. The legalities coincide with the evolution from the French, through the Spanish, to the United States legal systems, with several references to Texas family law. Far from dry reading, the intriguing story of Myra's parents and her quest for recognition draws the reader forward through a colorful portrayal of characters and historical scenes.

Linda S. Hudson

East Texas Baptist University

*The Black Regulars, 1866-1898*, William A. Dobak & Thomas D. Phillips (University of Oklahoma Press, 4100 28th Avenue NW, Norman, OK 73069-8218) 2001. Contents. Illus. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 360. \$34.95. Hardcover.

*The Black Regulars, 1866-1898*, tells the long-awaited history of the United States Army's first generation of African-American soldiers who served between the Civil War and Spanish-American War. The authors reconstruct the ordinary yet compelling lives of the almost twenty thousand men who comprised the all-black infantries and cavalries. They present a balanced portrayal of these soldiers, the United States Army's policies toward them, and the impact of racial discrimination on their lives.

On July 28, 1866, Congress passed the army reorganization bill – later signed by President Andrew Johnson – and thereby provided for the creation of six all-black regiments, four infantry and two cavalry; after 1869 the army consolidated these six regiments into four. While some, like Major General William T. Sherman, questioned the effectiveness of African-American regiments, no one could deny the manpower shortage that plagued the army after the Civil War. Nor could anyone question the valor of the 180,000 black volunteers in the Union Army. After the war, the army desperately needed soldiers, especially in the West. African-American Civil War veterans, along with recruits newly available due to emancipation, helped to fill this void.

The all-black regiments, which comprised almost ten percent of the army, served primarily in the West and performed many tasks, including constructing and maintaining post roads, protecting railroad work crews, safeguarding emigrant trails, patrolling the Mexican border, and supervising Indian reservations. Many of these troops served in Texas, the site of nonstop military action from 1865 until the mid-1880s; in fact, more enlisted men served in

Texas than any other state during this time. By the onset of the Spanish-American War, black regulars had manned posts in almost every western state and territory from the Rio Grande to the northern Rocky Mountains.

Utilizing courts-martial transcripts, newspaper articles, correspondence, service records, pension applications, and other federal documents, Dobak and Phillips reconstruct a remarkable story of anguish and frustration, joy and triumph. The authors successfully challenge misconceptions about racism and black life. The army – with some reluctance – recruited prospective black soldiers, promoted deserving regulars, offered literacy classes for its African-American regulars, and routinely awarded medals of distinction to worthy black soldiers. Often, civilians and commissioned officers alike spoke out in protest against racial injustice experienced by black enlisted men.

The book's greatest virtue is its attempt to overturn widely held beliefs and stereotypes about race. Paradoxically, this is also the book's greatest weakness. I disagree with the authors' assertion that African-American soldiers did not experience systematic racial oppression. To the contrary, post-Civil War black Americans faced oppression in many forms. While the army did not have race-based policies other than the establishment of segregated regiments, military personnel and affiliated civilians regularly reminded African American soldiers of their proper place in society. I also disagree with the authors' decision not to include an analysis of African-American commissioned officers. Providing readers with detailed information about experiences of men like Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper – the first black graduate at the United States Military Academy at West Point – would have enhanced the writing of a forgotten history and abolished untruths about black participation in the army.

Nevertheless, this book stands as an excellent resource in United States military and African-American history. It is especially valuable to scholars studying the black experience in the military. Dobak and Phillips have joined the host of scholars – Ronald Takaki, Joseph Glatthaar, Garna L. Christian, Benjamin Quarles, Rayford Logan, Herbert Aptheker, and others – who have recognized the military heroics of nonwhites in the United States.

Bernadette Pruitt  
Sam Houston State University

*Maria von Blücher's Corpus Christi : Letters from the South Texas Frontier, 1849-1879*, Bruce S. Cheeseman, editor (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2002. Contents. Illus. Notes. Index. P. 292. \$29.95. Hardcover.

We meet Maria amid aristocratic Prussian finery in 1849 when she initiates a life-long correspondence with her mother. Her charming honeymoon letters from the Old World contrast dramatically with depictions of her cultural, social, and material existence with Felix von Blücher over the next twenty-five years on the Texas frontier.

Maria's letters add a new voice to story of German Texas immigrants. Her perspective differs not because of her elevated social standing and outstanding education, of which we have other examples, but because the Blüchers eschew German settlements to homestead in Corpus Christi. Isolated in South Texas, Maria seeks her mother's emotional and financial support as well as advice while reporting political and economic details. In addition to being valuable sources of social history, the letters also document the process of language loss and acculturation on the frontier.

Maria's letters reflect her increasing individual strength and independence even as they depict the disintegration of her marriage to Felix. Both Maria and Felix replicated their parents' values: Maria's modeled parental duty and sacrifice. Fortunately, they had the financial means to supplement their daughter's herculean efforts on another continent.

Bruce Cheeseman selected the letters from a collection of translations prepared in Germany by Nolda and Witzel, whose names are unjustly missing from the title page. Some phrases fall below the threshold of readability because of arcane vocabulary, false cognates, and German syntax. Cheeseman fails to provide eliptical markers to denote the absence of text. Three periods would not have "interrupted the narrative flow" but improved the documentary value of the text by conforming to academic conventions. A deeper editorial analysis of the advantages Maria enjoyed as a woman in her pioneer experience would complement her litany of tribulations.

Cheeseman prepared impeccable historical notations, despite the occasional important questions unanswered in favor of erudite explanations. (For example, instead of providing his source for stating that Maria studied with Liszt, he offers generic information on the pianist's career.) His chapter introductions significantly augment the reader's experience by establishing a rich local context. *Letters...* is a well-organized, beautifully illustrated

resource. Bruce Cheeseman selected passages that create a compelling psychological drama in a rich historical setting in an eventful era.

Betje Black Klier  
Austin, Texas

*Bringing the Law To Texas: Crime and Violence in Nineteenth Century Texas*, Allen G. Hatley (Centex Press, 1525 Post Oak Road, La Grange, TX 78945) 2002. Contents. Notes. Biblio. Index. Illus. P. xxvi + 198. \$31.95. Hardcover.

Law enforcement in Texas has taken many forms, including Republic-era ranging companies, state police forces during Reconstruction, county sheriffs, constables, deputy marshals, rangers on the frontier, and assorted vigilante groups. The “law and order” we now enjoy did not come easily, and how it was accomplished between 1846 and 1900 is a fascinating tale, one well told by Allen G. Hatley in *Bringing the Law To Texas*.

Hatley begins his story with a description of colonial Texas and the Republic, early crimes, and initial workings of the court system. An examination of Texas statehood, war with Mexico, and Indian removal follows. During the years immediately preceding the Civil War Texas authorities faced not only Indians on the western frontier but border outlaws such as Juan Cortina as well; both problems continued in some form throughout ensuing decades. Following the Civil War, the “first of the outlaws, Cullen Montgomery Baker,” rose to prominence, and during Reconstruction (1861-1870) two of the best known Texas outlaws, William Preston Longley and John Wesley Hardin, “two teenage killers,” gained fame.

Ensuing chapters review in some detail the increase of violence in the early 1870s, the taming of the frontier (1874-1876), and the “end of the road” for the better known outlaws. A discussion of the last Indian raids and prominent feuds, as well as new law enforcement problems at the turn of the century, conclude the narrative.

The story – well told in a mere two-hundred pages – does not delve in great detail into any one subject area. Readers familiar with Baker, Longley, and Hardin, or lawmen Ben Thompson and Jim Courtright, may find nothing new but will appreciate a reasoned look at these important figures. The various forms of law enforcement organizations, such as the Texas State Police (1870-1873) and the Texas Rangers, are discussed in a balanced format. The former

has traditionally been much maligned, but receives generally favorable treatment from Hatley. There were many members of the organization who believed in their duty and attempted to fulfill their orders. The more popular Frontier Battalion also had some bad men within its ranks, but overall the men attempted to uphold their pledges.

*Bringing the Law To Texas* is a significant study of violence in the state and the work of lawmen to bring about law and order, with an emphasis not on the careers of the popular outlaws and lawmen but on the ways in which courts and law enforcement officers established a system of laws for an ordered society. There are brief biographical sketches included, and twenty-five pages of endnotes provide the interested reader with additional source material for further reading.

Chuck Parsons  
Luling, Texas

*Ghost Army of World War II*, Jack Kneeece (Pelican Publishing Co., P.O. Box 3110, Gretna, LA 70054) 2001. Contents. Illus. Epilogue. P. 280. \$24.95. Hardcover.

Is a tendency showing?

History Channel viewers have seen members of George Patton's "phantom" Fifteenth Army overturning rubber tanks by had in the days before the D-Day invasion. Almost a year later, "angels" of the 11th Airborne Division liberated 2,147 internees, saving them from starvation and the threat of mass executions on Los Banos Island in the Philippines.

Now comes a book about "the ghost army" of World War II, though the 23rd Special Troops was not a ghost unit and certainly at a strength of 1,100 – hardly equal to a battalion – it was not an army. One is reminded of other "war stories."

Organized to help the campaign in Europe by deception, the 23rd specialized in noise generators that mimicked the sound of gunfire, camouflage to hide artillery pieces and other battlefield assets, and other measures designed to deceive the enemy.

Recruited from artists, fashion experts, and sound engineers, the unit included Bill Blass, who had not yet become an icon of the apparel industry. Unfortunately, the author's breathless recounting of the unit's service does not

obscure an attitude of “we won the war with some assistance from General Eisenhower.”

Deception is a perfectly correct element of warfare, of course. Example: Hitler’s belief for a couple of weeks after D-Day that the real invasion of Europe would come in the Pas de Calais area at the hands of Patton’s “phantom” Fifteenth Army. Holding troops in that area certainly helped the cause of those attacking the beaches on D-Day.

But that is no reason to deceive a reader about the importance of the 23rd’s service, as author Jack Kneece attempts to do. Add factual errors and an attempt to write the “big picture,” and the result is something a straightforward unit history would have avoided.

Do not spend your money on this unless you like ghost stories.

Max S. Lale

Marshall and Fort Worth, Texas

*Tales from the Big Thicket*, Francis E. Abernethy, editor (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2002. Reprint 1967. Contents. Maps. Illus. Index. P. 244. \$18.95. Hardcover.

In 1956 Francis E. “Ab” Abernethy moved to southeast Texas to become a professor of English at Lamar University in Beaumont, and thus began his love for the Big Thicket. As an avid hunter, fisherman, and folklorist in his homeland around Palestine and Nacogdoches, it was only natural that he would pursue his hobbies whenever he could in the outdoors further south. In fact, he stated recently, “On the first day of every hunting season, I would always turn out class and head to the Thicket.” Quickly taken under the native wings of such nature enthusiasts as Cecil Overstreet, Arden Hooks, and Lance Rosier, his interest was piqued by their stories of the unique culture around them. It was then that his hobby as a folklorist took over, and he began to collect the stories of other students of Thicket lore.

The collection, which begins with a background history and a brief survey of the geological conditions of the area, offers its readers a glimpse into the unpretentious lifestyles of the Thicket’s past. The stories, prefaced by the home-style rhetoric of Abernethy, include such tales as the well-known Texas bear hunt of 1906, a Civil War episode involving a search for hidden Jayhawkers, and the mysterious legends surrounding the “Saratoga Light.” This Big Thicket classic should surely delight any East Texas history buff.

Special thanks goes to the Big Thicket Association for making this reprint possible.

Wanda Landrey  
Beaumont, Texas

*Oil, Taxes, and Cats: A History of the DeVitt Family and the Mallet Ranch*, David J. Murrah (Texas Tech University Press, P. O. Box 41037, Lubbock, TX 79410 ) 2001. Reprint 1994. Contents. Illus. Notes. Maps. Index. P. 249. \$17.95. Paperback.

Originally published in 1994, David Murrah's history of the Mallet Ranch and the DeVitt family continues to be an interesting read. Those who think that a business history, whether of a ranch or otherwise, will be dull reading are in for a pleasant surprise. This one is a well-researched and balanced account of the accomplishments and achievements of the family of David Mantz DeVitt, including revelations about some family shortcomings.

Many prominent West Texas cattlemen played roles in the establishment and operation of the ranch. John Scharbauer was an early partner, while C.C. Slaughter competed for land. Brothers W.D. and J. Lee Johnson were stockholders and later partners in the operation. Johnson descendants still own 40 percent of the ranch.

A country song reminds us that "Holding things together ain't no easy thing to do." However, through depression and drought DeVitt or his oldest daughter, Christine, managed to do just that, parlaying a \$25,000 investment into a multimillion-dollar cattle and oil empire. Other major players, whether family members, stockholders, or partners, kept both the courtrooms and boardrooms busy and lively.

The book lends credence to the suspicion that having a major oil field in a pasture in which you have retained the mineral rights is a good thing. It also reminds us that some of the people who reap the benefit of good things do good things. Such is true of the DeVitt descendants who have made substantial philanthropic contributions.

The book demonstrates that history told by historians of Murrah's abilities is superior to that told by some writers who simply choose a historical



theme. It is also a reminder that ranching is a business run by businessmen and not cowboys.

Tom Crum  
Granbury, Texas

*Ralph W. Yarborough: The People's Senator*, Patrick Cox (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2001. Contents. Intro. Notes. Biblio. Illus. Index. P. 348. \$31.95. Hardcover.

Ralph Yarborough was a "larger than life" symbol to Texas liberals for a twenty-five-year period beginning in 1950. In fact, some state historians have labeled those years as the Ralph Yarborough Era. With little money he fought the business establishment relentlessly, campaigning against such high-profile state politicians as Allan Shivers, Lyndon Johnson, Price Daniel, John Connally, and Lloyd Bentsen. And although outspent in campaigns as much as twenty to one, he loomed always as a formidable opponent, demanding that candidates address issues of major concern to him, such as parks and wildlife, environment, education, health care, minorities, and civil rights. With each strenuous campaign his political rhetoric became more acrid in tone and more personal in substance. But Yarborough was unyielding in his approach. As he once commented to me when I raised questions about the viciousness of his charges, he replied: "It is not mudslinging when I tell the truth about my opponent."

Patrick Cox, historian at the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin, has presented objectively the life of Ralph Yarborough. He has clearly demonstrated the influence of family during Yarborough's formative years, the effect of his political mentor James Allred upon his career, and the impact of his service in the armed forces during World War II and in its aftermath both in Europe and Japan. But of even greater significance was the incident that launched Yarborough into state politics, a story that he loved to tell and retell. In January 1952, while "making contacts" in Austin for an attorney general's race, he happened, by chance, to encounter Governor Allan Shivers, who was quick to give him this "sage" advice. "I was wasting my time, that it wouldn't do me any good, that he had already decided who was going to the next attorney general of Texas." Yarborough then decided what he "must do. The time had come to end dictation and boss rule in Austin. The time had come for some red-blooded Texan to stand up and challenge this arrogant Austin machine.... I determined I would not let this

governor attack me from the rear. I resolved to meet him head-on. I set my sights on the Governorship itself" (pp. 94-95).

*Ralph W. Yarborough: The People's Senator* is a worthy addition to Texana. Patrick Cox has detailed the seemingly endless Yarborough campaigning that occupied the attention of Texas for more than twenty years. He has also elucidated at length the strengths and weaknesses of Ralph Yarborough. And he has pointed out a myriad of contributions by the "people's senator" who throughout his life befitted the apt memorial by editorial cartoonist Ben Sargent: "Let's Put the Jam on the Lower Shelf So the Little People Can Reach It" (p. 284).

Ben Procter

Texas Christian University

*LBJ's Texas White House: "Our Heart's Home,"* Hal K. Rothman (Texas A&M University Press, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354) 2001. Contents. Illus. Epilogue. Notes. Index. P. 301. \$24.95. Hardcover.

In the first half of the twentieth century the phrase "land rich and cash poor" accurately described any Texas Hill Country landowner seized of too few acres, too little rain, and too many children. At its outset, Hal Rothman's work defines the brutal exigencies of the Hill Country, land similar to that eloquently defined in John Graves' *Hard Scrabble*. A man had to struggle with his ground to extract an income. Hays County is unforgiving, demanding country, not unlike political prodigy Lyndon Baines Johnson, whom Rothman examines in this book.

Lyndon Johnson's rearing produced a multifaceted personality. Son of a multi-term state representative and a student of the courthouse "spit and whittle club," LBJ quickly learned the value of flattery, how to isolate and appeal to an opponent's weaknesses, and how to win an argument. As a child LBJ suffered his father's bankruptcy and a perceived threat of loss of maternal love. As a result, an adult Johnson aggressively sought the capitulation of his opponents and the affection of his constituents. Raised in a family of variable fortune and a degree of political and social notoriety, Johnson developed a sense of insecurity, a notion of separateness that required protective, even reactive, measures.

Ronnie Dugger, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Bill Moyers, Billy Lee Brammer, Robert Dalleck, and Robert Caro, among others, have documented

the multi-pronged attack Johnson could unleash on an opponent. Part of "the Johnson Treatment" included the maintenance of high ground, a vantage point and a supreme defensive position. Johnson owed his 1948 election to the U.S. Senate to an eighty-seven-vote statewide majority that earned him the sobriquet "Landslide Lyndon." Upon becoming a member of "the more august body," Johnson realized that "old money" members of "the club" owned country estates; islands of influence to which subordinate senators and supplicants of all stripes traveled for audience. The Texas senator needed an estate of his own, a point of high ground from which to make political deals. When in 1951 LBJ purchased his own ranch he thus became newly "landed," yet hardly "gentry."

As Johnson's political influence accrued, so did the importance of his ranch to his planned ascent. As majority leader in the Senate and as vice president, Johnson spent an increasing amount of time each year at the ranch. Located sixty miles west of Austin and sixty miles northwest of San Antonio, the LBJ Ranch proved sufficiently remote to isolate guests whom Johnson sought to bring to his point of view. As president, Johnson's need for the ranch escalated. It became an integral part of "the treatment." On the ranch Johnson was able to argue his political perspective with few interruptions; he was free to press his case with vigor, unencumbered by a meddlesome press corps which, when permitted on the ranch at all, he kept corralled near the main house.

Rothman correctly maintained that the ranch served Johnson, and, by extension, Hill Country residents, as an icon. Over the years Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson worked to improve the property's infrastructure. Additions were made to the "big house;" a side yard acquired a swimming pool, an airstrip and hanger were built. When Johnson became president, the ranch obtained updated communications and other upgrades. Each improvement signaled the escalating importance of the LBJ Ranch. The more frequently Johnson required domestic and foreign officials to confer with him at the ranch, the more significant the ranch, LBJ, and Hays County, Texas, became in the global political arena.

Hal Rothman succeeded in illuminating the importance of the ranch to LBJ, both personally and politically. Throughout Johnson's political career and especially after his ascendancy to the presidency, the ranch increased awareness of the Texas Hill Country and of the myth of the American West throughout the world. It also showed LBJ's Hays County friends and nemeses alike that he had indeed "arrived."

*Getting Right With God: Southern Baptists and Desegregation 1945-1995*, Mark Newman (University of Alabama Press, P.O. Box 870380, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0380) 2001. Contents. Appendix. Notes. Biblio. Index. P. 292. \$39.95. Hardcover.

The old joke is that in the South there are more Baptists than people. The predominant religious preference of both black and white Southerners is Baptist (or "Babtist" as it is usually pronounced). Part of the reality the joke points to is that the subject of religion and race in the South is so big, so complex, that it threatens to overwhelm any book-length study. Mark Newman focuses clearly on Southern Baptists (although there is a chapter on other white Protestant denominations in the South) and desegregation between the end of World War II and 1995, when the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) adopted a resolution that condemned and apologized for the role of Southern Baptists in slavery and racism.

Newman says that Southern Baptists passed through three stages in their response to desegregation. Between 1945 and 1954 they accepted segregation as a given, arguing only about how to give African Americans better treatment within it. Beginning with the *Brown* Supreme Court decision, Southern Baptists were challenged and pushed slowly and in small steps toward change. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Southern Baptists moved away from segregation and began to see racism as unchristian. Newman also remarks that from 1971 until 1995 Southern Baptists' attention began to shift away from issues of race to other issues, including their own battle with the Fundamentalist takeover of the SBC that began in 1978.

Newman's primary method is to examine statements from various Southern Baptist agencies and publications during each period and then examine how the state organizations and publications were also responding. Some agencies and some states were more progressive in urging change than others. Consistently, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and the Baptist General Convention of Texas and its own Christian Life Commission were progressive leaders. Statements and actions by those supporting segregation are also well documented.

During the Civil Rights era, the SBC was the largest white denomination in the South, encompassing almost half of the southern white population. Newman shows that its responses to desegregation were more diverse than perhaps previously thought; nevertheless, the Southern Baptist response generally reflected the response of the existing order of southern white society, which was challenged to change first by the black civil rights movement (mostly Baptists) and then by the federal government. This book serves as a reminder of what might have happened, but did not, if white Baptists had

known and listened to black Baptists. With so many Baptists in the South it makes me wonder what could still happen.

Rev. Kyle Childress  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*Adventures With Ed: A Portrait of Abbey*, Jack Loeffler (University of New Mexico Press, 1720 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1591) 2002. Contents. Bibliographic essay. Ack. B&W Photos. Index. P. 298. \$24.95. Hardcover.

Loeffler's work is a highly personal account of his friend, Edward Abbey, their ventures to deserts, mountains, beaches, rivers, and their visits to each other's homes. But it is more. Loeffler and Abbey were intimate friends who spoke freely and shared their thoughts, philosophies, fears, hopes, and opinions, which sometimes were in conflict. Much here is based on those conversations by other who knew him. Abbey, who died in 1989 at the age of sixty-two, is most remembered for his writings on wilderness, nature, and ecology. At the heart of his works, both fiction and non-fiction, is the concept that humanity is part of nature, not its master. The earth, he believed, needs protection from forces that are destroying it, whether greedy corporations seeking power and wealth, politicians seeking power and popularity bureaucrats serving both, misguided scientists and technocrats, an avaricious public seeking more consumer goods, or advertisers convincing that public that it has need of them. Abbey's views were based on personal experience, wide reading, and research, which he internalized and generalized.

Loeffler's work is not a conventional biography as is James Bishop's fine *Epitaph for a Desert Anarchist*, but rather a look at Abbey's philosophy, thoughts, and even fantasies, many shared with his friend. Abbey's experiences, from boyhood in Pennsylvania to army service in Europe to college in New Mexico – where he earned two degrees in philosophy – and later from fire towers in national forests to social work in New Jersey and to writing and sometimes university teaching in his beloved Southwest, all went into the making of this outdoorsman, activist, and self-styled, self-admitted anarchist. From these experiences came a dozen and a half books and numerous articles and essays.

His *Desert Solitaire*, in which he described his surroundings and thoughts while serving as a ranger at a national monument is already an American

classic. His *Monkey Wrench Gang*, a story of some eco-saboteurs, captured the hearts of nature defenders and made him an icon. His works, including final and largest novel, *The Fool's Progress*, place him in the forefront of American authors.

Abbey had strong opinions that he was not shy about expressing. One could disagree with his views about authors, but since he was so well and widely read, they cannot be ignored. Among the great writers he listed Cervantes, Rabelais, Melville, Twain, Whitman, and Thoreau, to name a few. Of the great bard he said, "Shakespeare was a good poet but had the soul of a sycophant, the heart of a toady." He listed others as "stuffed mediocrities: Bellow, Updike, Mailer..." Other preferences were also pronounced. He liked his '74 Ford pick-up, his old blue sleeping bag, his ever-present .357 revolver, his surplus army desert boots, beer, and cabrito. Some views led critics to call him a bigot. As a social worker, for example, he believed any welfare recipients were lazy cheaters, and social workers and bureaucrats serving them were little better. He compared the welfare poor to American Indians who were robbed of dignity and made dependent through government policy.

Abbey saw himself as an anarchist and saboteur, but not as a terrorist. Terrorism, whether by individuals, groups, governments, or other institutions, he explained, hurts or intimidates people. That he could not abide. Violence against people should be used only in defense. Sabotage could be used against those things that aided insitutional terrorism or raped the earth. He dreamed of destroying the dams that plugged the Colorado River, particularly the Glen Canyon Dam, and let the great river flow to the Sea of Cortez, a goal that he accomplished, but only in a novel.

If Abbey did not free the Colorado, or save the Navajo and Hopi sacred mountain, or stop the destruction of beautiful places and animal habitat, he nonetheless, inspired others. That inspiration, along with Abbey's works, will be his legacy.

Loeffler's book is not objective, but it is a wonderful book about his gentle, blustering friend. If you do not have it, get it and read it. It will be well worth the effort.

Carl Davis  
Stephen F. Austin State University

*No More Silence: An Oral History of the Assassination of President Kennedy*, Larry A. Sneed (University of North Texas Press, Denton, TX) 2002. Reprint 1998. Contents. Notes. Photos. Glossary. Index. P. 601. \$ 24.95. Paperback.

The author is a high school teacher who lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia. He became obsessed with ascertaining the truth about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and attempted to read everything published on the subject. Not satisfied with the available literature, he decided to conduct his own research. At first Sneed did not intend to write a book. His original plan was to make video tapes with as many people as possible in Dallas who had knowledge of the assassination and use the tapes as teaching tools in his classroom.

The project began in the summer of 1987 when Sneed came to Dallas and conducted his first series of interviews. He returned each summer for the next seven years and in the end he had forty-nine video tapes. As each year passed and the author reviewed the accumulated material, he concluded that he had in his possession much more than a teaching tool, he had the material for an important book. He was right.

Sneed obtained his interviews by persuading the subjects that, unlike most assassination buffs, he had no axe to grind and no preconceived biases. He merely wanted to hear what his subjects had to say. In preparing the book he continued to adhere to this principle. The volume consists of forty-nine interviews presented without any editorial comment. The interviews are divided into four groups: "The Eye Witnesses"; "The Police: Initial Reaction"; "The Investigation"; and "The Oswald Transfer and Aftermath." Some of the interview subjects were persons who were interviewed by the Warren Commission in 1964, and by the House Special Committee on the Assassination in the 1970s. Others had never been interviewed before. The book, published in 1998, is the first and only oral history of the assassination ever produced.

By allowing his subjects to speak for themselves Sneed invites his readers to draw their own conclusions, and the result is a bombshell. No matter what one might previously have believed about the assassination, a reader will come away from this book persuaded that Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone assassin and that there was no conspiracy. For that reason Sneed's work must be ranked as one of the most important discussions of those tragic events of November 22-24, 1963.

The only weakness of the book is technical in nature. Mr. Sneed is not the greatest writer who ever lifted a pen and he was not well-served by the University of North Texas Press. Regrettably, this important volume suffers

from one of the most miserable jobs of copy-editing this reviewer has ever seen. Sneed deserved better, and so do his readers.

Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr.  
Midwestern State University

*The South in Modern America: A Region at Odds*, Dewey W. Grantham  
(University of Arkansas Press, 201 Ozark Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701)  
2001. Reprint 1994. Contents. Tables. Maps. Graphs. Illus. Biblio. Index.  
P. 359. \$19.95. Paperback.

Dewey W. Grantham emphasizes four themes in his history of the South since Reconstruction. He focuses on sectional conflict, the compromises that usually followed this conflict, the convergence between North and South that often grew out of these compromises, and the persistence of an identifiable South despite convergence. Skillful use of these themes makes this more than a simple synthesis of other's work, but specialists in the field still will find little new here. Instead the work is most useful for advanced undergraduate students, beginning graduate students, or the interested general reader.

The author begins with a quick overview of the South in the mid-1870s, but rapidly shifts to a review of the South's "place in Modern America." Unlike authors of other recent works about the modern South such as Edward L. Ayers, *The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction* (1992) and Pete Daniel, *Lost Revolutions: The South in the 1950s* (2000), Grantham is primarily concerned with the relationship of the South to the rest of the nation. Not surprisingly, he focuses on politics rather than on the social and economic history that concerns Ayers, Daniel, and others. There are chapters about political reconciliation and accommodation between North and South on racial discrimination and about southern support for the New Deal. The South's role in World War I and World War II receive particular emphasis, and Grantham covers both the South's contribution and the impact of those wars on the region. Grantham's treatment of the end of formal segregation on the national and local stage is particularly well done. In the almost obligatory fashion of many textbooks Grantham mixes in chapters dealing with social and economic history, but these are often repetitive and offer almost nothing new. Grantham concludes with an interesting chapter on "The South, the North, and the Nation."



While the book rarely offers local analysis, those who want to place East Texas within the context of the South and the nation will profit from this book. It offers an interesting and accessible starting point for investigating just how American all portions of the South have been.

Walter L. Buenger  
Texas A&M University

*Telling Stories, Writing Songs: An Album of Texas Songwriters*, Kathleen Hudson (University of Texas Press, P. O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819) 2001. Contents. B&W Photos. Biographies. P. 299. \$39.95. Hardcover.

Kathleen Hudson, founder and director of the Texas Heritage Music Foundation and professor of English at Schreiner University, presents thirty-four interviews with Texas musicians and songwriters collected over a period of twelve years. The result is a series of discussions with Texas music luminaries about their craft, inspiration, and lives on the road, playing the music they love. She seeks to answer a seemingly simple question: What makes songwriters write? What emerges, however, is an exploration into the souls of Texas songwriters and performers. The answers are as wide and varied as the state itself.

Hudson's transcriptions are somewhere between interviews and oral histories. They are life histories: impressions and brief thoughts on the art of songwriting. The Texas experience is a common thread that weaves its way throughout the interviews. Beaumont-born Johnny Winter credits the variety of musical influences in Texas. "When you go from Blind Lemon Jefferson to Albert Collins or T-Bone Walker, none of those guys have a whole lot in common. And that *is* Texas music." (p. 216). Other personal experiences include a childhood of poverty in Corsicana for Billy Joe Shaver, while Marcia Ball acknowledges that growing up along the Gulf Coast influenced her music. "The Gulf Coast is a hotbed of rhythm and blues and soul music," she said (p. 144). Blind Lemon Jefferson deeply influenced B. B. King, who worked in Houston for Buffalo Booking during the 1950s.

The various answers presented in the interviews reveal that there is no singular reason or motivation for writing. Hudson's subjects admit that writing is difficult at times, but remain dedicated to writing songs and communicating with audiences regardless of profits or commercial success. As Lyle Lovett

explained, "Texas music is from the heart, and it's music about people" (p. 270). The same is true for Hudson's book. It is about the hearts of the people who make Texas music. Anyone with an interest in Texas music will find this a welcome addition to a library.

Gene B. Preuss

Southwest Museum Services, Houston

*Into That Good Night*, Ron Rozelle (Texas Review Press, Sam Houston State University, P.O. Box 2146, Huntsville, TX 77341-2146) 2000. Reprint 1998. P. 147. \$14.95. Paperback.

*Into That Good Night*, by Ron Rozelle, is delightful. Looking at the author's life from early childhood to adulthood and simultaneously viewing his father's life from the time of his busy, full life to his death, we see a capsule of time. That time runs from before the integration of the races in East Texas (probably the late 40s) until the early 1990s. A young boy's first brush with racial bigotry and a father who, as superintendent of the local school district, deals with the same issue in a more pragmatic fashion. There is the vignette of a young boy's first brush with alcohol and a father's allowing the reality of a hangover to be punishment enough for the adventure; the anguish of a young man going off to Germany in the military while his mother is slowly dying of lung cancer.

We read of the mother's battle with lung cancer. She ultimately committed suicide rather than die slowly from the cancer. The father slowly changes as his family changes. His children left home, his wife died, and eventually he retired as school superintendent. We watch with anguish as we see him slowly slip into a dementia, maybe Alzheimer or maybe vascular dementia. The ultimate diagnosis is a moot point; suffice to say he developed a dementia and he ultimately retreated from the "real world" into that unknown world of the demented.

We see the children's attempts to deal with their father's slow death. By then his son had followed his father's footsteps and turned to teaching as a profession. The eerie similarity of father and son haunt the reader, who must wonder if the son will follow the father into the world of dementia. We are given a hope that as the world has changed in Oakwood, Texas, during the lifetimes of this family, and will continue to change.

Like the Rozelle family, we all go "Into That Good Night" as described

by Dylan Thomas in his poem "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night." Thomas states, "Do not go gentle into that good night, Rage, rage against the dying of the light." As demonstrated by both father and son's life often changed by events over which they had no control, it is problematic whether "raging against the dying of the light" is any more than a hope. But after all, we learn from the past and we have hope for the future. "Into That Good Night" gives us knowledge of the past, and perhaps a large dose of hope for the future.

Robert P. Carroll, Jr. MD  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*The Wines Of Texas: A Guide and a History, Fourth Edition*, Sarah Jane English (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709) 2002. Contents. Maps. Illus. Appendix. Index. P. 239. \$26.95. Paperback.

*The Wines Of Texas* by Sarah Jane English is a valuable resource for novices as well as those who consider themselves connoisseurs in evaluating the individual properties of wines. Her book contains a wealth of information but is not so technical that one might nod off. The prose flows friendly and freely.

English begins with the histories of the wine pioneers and their hardships, of which there were plenty. She moves on to fairly detailed descriptions of the beginnings of each of the major wineries and their locations. More of her book is spent in the area of the Texas Hill Country wineries because that is where most of the Texas vineyards are located. Of course, the North Texas town of Grapevine is not slighted. There are two vineyards in East Texas: one is the Kiepeisol Estates Vineyard near Tyler; the other is Homestead Winery #1, located outside Ivanhoe, which is outside Bonham, which is close to the Texas-Oklahoma state line. If there are others in the East Texas area, she does not list them in her book. Maps will show visitors more detailed locations so those who are interested may stop for a taste and tour. Wine is available for purchase at most of the wineries.

In the section titled "Food and Wine: Creating the Perfect Match" (p. 144-147), there are suggested guidelines. English has lists of preferred temperatures for serving wine, a gold mine for the beginner and a handy reference for those whose memories have blanks. Certain wines complement certain foods, thereby enhancing everyone's pleasure in both the wine and food.

The reader will be astonished at the growth of the wine industry in Texas. It will continue to flourish as the vines age and as more Texans and others discover that Texas wines are comparable to any in America and many abroad.

Sarah Alice Millard  
Nacogdoches, Texas

*The Dallas Public Library: Celebrating a Century of Service 1901-2001*, Michael V. Hazel (University of North Texas Press, P. O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2001. Contents. Illus. Appendix. Notes. Index. P. 252. \$29.95. Hardcover.

Michael V. Hazel, a Dallas native and author of several books concerning his hometown, notably *Dallas: A Dynamic Century*, *Old City Park*, and *Dallas Reconsidered*, has produced a well-written and well-researched account of the history of the Dallas Public Library.

Hazel begins by providing a detailed narrative of the efforts expended by several civic-minded individuals in 1899 who were determined to create a public library for the city of Dallas. Chronologically organized, the book examines each of the three central libraries that the city constructed during its first one hundred years, focusing on their considerable cultural and educational contributions. Hazel also ably discusses the first branch library, devotes an entire chapter to the proliferation of later branches, and acknowledges the individual librarians and directors who carefully shepherded the library through its first century.

Showing the city's strong support for the library, Hazel cites numerous examples of how the business community and the library worked together. At the same time, he does not shy away from discussing several highly charged political issues that affected Dallas and its library, including racial segregation, book censorship, controversial art, and the urban homeless. He also outlines the trials and tribulations the library endured regarding funding cuts that at various times led to a decrease in library services and a loss of experienced personnel.

Relying on a vast array of sources including manuscript collections, personal letters, annual reports, individual interviews, and newspaper articles, Hazel has created a superb, accurate portrayal of the Dallas Public Library in its first century. Enhanced by numerous vintage photographs, the book is not

only an excellent history of the Dallas Public Library but also a microcosm of the city of Dallas itself between 1901 and 2001.

Charnita S. Justiss  
Dallas, Texas

*The Texas Cookbook: From Barbecue to Banquet, an informal view of dining and entertaining the TEXAS way*, Mary Faulk Kooock (University of North Texas Press P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) Contents. Recipes. Index. Sketches. P. 491 \$19.95. Paperback.

*The Texas Cookbook* is the first in a series UNT Press has promised. This one is edited by Fran Vick and is "designed to keep in print the eating practices and culinary practices of the American people, past and present." Devotees of Green Pastures Restaurant in Austin will not only recognize author Mary Faulk Kooock's name as its original proprietor, but will have a chance at least to read about – if not actually prepare – some of its favorite menu items.

Ms. Kooock manages to give social historians a chance to step back into early recipes and instructions for cooking whatever early Texans had available, be it the offal from a beef carcass or heads from boiled, shelled crawfish. Her narrative not only binds the twenty-six chapters of the book together but leavens them with personal stories of the many cooks she interviewed as she collected her menus and recipes. Some are for special occasions, such as the dedication of a memorial library in Rockdale when Bea Johnson served crawfish bisque with stuffed heads.

Since the *Texas Cookbook* was first published in 1969, and certainly because Ms. Kooock often catered or assisted in the planning and serving of meals at state occasions at Lyndon B. Johnson's ranch, an entire chapter of menus, stories, and recipes from the ranch is included. Most of that section's recipes are Mrs. Johnson's own, often prepared by longtime family cook Zephyr Wright. Recipes for Pedernales River Chili, Texas Cookies, peanut brittle, and at least five of the president's favorite pies are included, along with menus and recipes for the meals served to President Lopez Mateos of Mexico, German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, and Pakistan's President Mohammed Ayub Khan.

There are other political recipes as well, from "Democratic Rice" to "Republican Doughnuts." Congressman Jake Pickle, no surprise, was given homemade pickles at every campaign stop, often with the recipe attached.

Cucumbers, peaches, okras, beets, eggs, tomatoes, black-eyed peas, and onions were part of Pickle's political largesse. His wife Beryl shared those with the instructions for making them at home.

Admittedly, this is not your modern cookbook. It was written before butter, beef, and cream were sins and low calorie was a four-letter word beginning with "lite." The closest it comes to "quick and easy" is the use of cream of mushroom soup in casseroles. Booze is often a basic ingredient; whiskey in nut cake from Houston and Lizzies from Brownsville, rum in plantation punch from Waco and daiquiri balls from Abilene, and red wine in pork tenderloin from Austin. Scratch cooks will find many tasty ideas between these covers, and the frozen entree crowd will get a good idea of what a scratch cook really is. Its complete recipe index is most useful. A "People index" would have been nice as well, and sadly, it is not available.

Some cookbooks are for reading only – the recipes or ingredients therein are either impossible to find or too complicated for all but the most experienced cook. This book, which is a good read, has a few of those and a few recipes that begin with forty pounds of potatoes or thirty pounds of pinto beans, but for the most part they are suitable for a family-sized meal or a manageable party.

By the way, should you find yourself with leftover beef brains, sweetbreads, heart, livers, kidneys, and a little diaphragm, Ms. Koock has found just what to do with them. Add a little tripe, cut it all up in bite-sized pieces, add all the vegetables available except corn, cook the whole business all day in a black cast iron pot, preferably over a fire in the back yard, and serve up "Son of a Gun Stew."

Gail K Beil  
Marshall, Texas

*Editor's note: The following books arrived at our office at approximately the same time, and since they all were written for young readers, we sent them to a local ISD for comments by students in grades four through seven.*

*Tales of the Wild Horse Desert*, Betty Bailey Colley and Jane Clements Monday (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, Texas, 78713-7819) 2001. Contents. Intro. Acknowledgments. Illus. Glossary. Index. Appendix. P. 124. \$19.95. Paperback.

*Tales of the Wild Horse Desert* is a book for young readers based upon the same interviews used in the University of Texas Press's 1997 volume for adults, *Voices of the Wild Horse Desert*. It is a good book about the King and Kenedy Ranches. It has several tales about things that go on around the ranches. One of the best stories is about two brothers that grow up on the King Ranch. Reading about what they had to do on the ranch while they were growing up and how they had to drop out of school when they were fourteen to start learning the skills they needed to know to prepare themselves for the test that they would take to be a *vaquero* shows how hard life was back then compared to today. Since there were no trains close by, the *vaqueros* – Hispanic cowboys – went on cattle drives to cities like Abilene, Dodge City, and St. Louis.

I found this book very interesting because it had so much exquisite detail about not only the horses but the people and the desert. My least favorite story was when it talked about what they did for weddings.

*The Boy of Chancellorville and Other Civil War Stories*, James Marten, editor (Oxford University Press, 198 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016-4314) 2002. Contents. Intro. Illus. Acknowledgments. P. 200. \$20. Paperback.

There are eight different stories in this book written by such famous American authors as Hamlin Garland, Louisa May Alcott, and Charles Waddell Chesnutt. All of them take place during the Civil War. Each of the stories are about kids' lives during the war. The two stories at the beginning of the book, "Dog Carlos" by Louise E. Chollet and "Winning His Way" by Charles Carleton Coffin, were good but hard to understand; as the book went on the stories got even better. "Dog Carlos," "The Boy of Chancellorville" by Edmund Kirke, and "The Doll" by Chesnutt were especially entertaining and informative. The book is going to become a classic.

*Victor Lopez at the Alamo*, James Rice (Pelican Publishing Company, Inc., P.O. Box 3110, Gretna, LA 70054-3110) 2001. Illus. P. 125. \$12.95. Paperback.

*Victor Lopez at the Alamo* is a good book about a fourteen-year-old boy who has to join the Mexican Army, and what happens to him at the Alamo and at San Jacinto. The boy learns how important friendship is and how horrible war is. The most interesting part of the story was the part that described the Mexican army's journey to the Alamo. The adventures were fun to read about, like one time the Indians came and the soldiers had to find cover quick until more help came. I enjoyed reading about how the soldiers had to find ways to get meat, since they did not get ammunition until they got to the Alamo.

Patrick Barringer, Bill Colley, and Stefanie Bell  
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*2001: A Texas Folklore Odyssey*, Francis Edward Abernethy, editor (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2001. Contents. Illus. Index. Contributors. P. 354. \$32.95. Hardcover.

Vol. LVIII of the Texas Folklore Society indeed becomes an odyssey into the myriad facets of Texas folk life. With *2001: A Texas Folklore Odyssey*, Texas Folklore Society editor "Ab" Abernethy and twenty-three other contributors convey the reader on a trip through time, space, and lively experiences.

Folklorist Sylvia Grider, for example, spans two eras in "Epics of Defeat ..." comparing and contrasting the Battle of the Alamo with Scotland's Battle of Culloden, while Peggy Redshaw explains how Dr. Gideon Lincecum dyed cloth during the American Civil War. Carolyn Porter Norgaard, in "Women A-Horseback – Side or Astride," chronicles the evolution of saddles for women, along with that of the status of said women, while Fran Vick, scholar and publisher, discusses the family letters of Roy Bedichek. Kevin Hill and Jim Stuart bring us "Greetings from Frank Dobie." Then, Mike Cox tells us of learning how important it is to have a "leeeeeeeede!" in for a news story.

George Ewing recounts the trials and triumphs of traveling about in the Model T Ford that his non-gambling mother won in a commercial drawing. There is Thad Sitton's disquisition on "the cultural significance of the 'blowing horn' among the free-range stockmen of Southeast Texas," and Kenneth Davis's recollection of a time when the Watkins Man made house



calls. Also included is J.G. Pinkerton's reminiscence about when, at the age of twelve, he helped his grandmother birth her stillborn baby.

Hispanic folk customs are found in "La Quinceañera ..." by Phyllis Bridges, and in "Miraculous Images . . . in South Texas" by Rhett Rushing. And then there are the treatises on the likes of Jesse James (Tony Clark) and of "Uppity Women" (Archie McDonald); of the elusive Yellow Rose of Texas ("Ab"), and of yellow prose (James Lutzweiler); baby lore (Joyce Roach), and grand parenting (Hazel S. Abernethy); old-time fiddling (Charles Gardner), and cheating songs "from Prototype to Post-Modern" (Richard Holland); baseball (John Lightfoot); and, with Becky Matthews, we are even transported over to Roswell, New Mexico, for its fiftieth-anniversary "Sell-Abraction" of the 1947 UFO phenomenon.

Also to be found in Vol. LVIII are "Recipes from Green Pastures [an Austin restaurant]" (Mary Faulk Kooock), along with L. Patrick Hughes' praise of potted pork in "Austin's One and Only Spamarama." Thus, we find the Texas folklore frontier remaining open, very much alive and well.

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*Early History of Port Arthur, Texas*, William McKissick Timmerman, Jr.  
(Corie Publishing, P. O. Box 391 Nederland, TX 77627 ) 2001. Contents.  
Illus. Tables. Bibliographical Notes. Index. P. 397. Hardcover. \$ ? .

William McKissick Timmerman's *Early History of Port Arthur, Texas* is essentially a chronicle of the origins and development of this Gulf Coast shipping and refining center from 1895 until the eve of World War II. In his opening paragraph the author clearly establishes his goal in telling this story of a community periodically pummeled by hurricanes and floods, surrounded by swamps and marshes that were populated, particularly in the early days, by hosts of reptiles and insects which in their numbers and ubiquity, and in the diseases they bore, posed real dangers to the health and lives of its human inhabitants. Timmerman begins his narrative by rhetorically questioning "why anybody in his right mind would choose to live in such a place" (p. 1).

The answer that emerges from these pages is, quite simply, access to water that attracted people, first to the proposed site of a seaport terminus for a railroad linking the breadbasket of the American Midwest to worldwide markets and, later, to an essential resource for the petroleum refineries that

were to sustain and shape the character of the community. It was this resource, water, that attracted the interest and investments of "Gilded Age" entrepreneurs like Arthur Stillwell and John W. Gates, who in turn drew to their new city ever-increasing numbers of people seeking the prosperity that the founders promised in their visionary projects. Within less than half a century Port Arthur's population grew to over fifty-one thousand souls as recorded in the 1930 census.

One of the more compelling aspects of Timmerman's work is his attention to the tensions and conflicts that arose among the rapidly growing, violence-prone citizenry, remarkable for its ethnic, racial, and religious diversity. Of particular significance and consequence was the creation, by law and practice, of a system of virtual apartheid, whereby African Americans were segregated from those classified as "white" by a line of demarcation that physically divided the two communities.

Like many local histories Timmerman's work is rich in factual detail but less effective in providing historical analysis and interpretation. The extensive primary source references – particularly the use of oral histories and personal interviews – are impressive and should be of considerable use to future students of the subject. Historians of the urban experience in America, of East Texas and the Gulf Coast, along with the citizens of Port Arthur, past, present and future, are indebted to "Mac" Timmerman for his dedicated effort to tell the extraordinary story of his community.

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